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consist of four members, no more than two from any party. Section 6 of this act contains several noteworthy provisions. After providing for the appointment by the boards of the chief administrative officers, the act goes on to say: "All other officers and employees of each institution named herein shall be appointed regardless of political or religious affiliation on the basis of fitness, after examination as to their qualifications for the duties to be performed under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the board of the institution." It is also made a misdemeanor "for any person to solicit or receive from any officer or employee of said institutions any money for campaign assessments, or for any officer or employee of said institutions to pay any such assessment to any person or organization or political party.

New York (1907, c. 430) has established a State probation commission of seven members. The work of the commission is largely supervisory and is expected to extend the operation of the probation system. Other enactments establishing or extending the system of probation and parole have been noted in Kansas, Missouri and Wyoming.

Statutes aimed against family desertion have been enacted in Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire and Indiana. The latter act (1907, c. 49) has received some criticism on account of a proviso "except for the cause of adultery or other vicious or immoral conduct," which is declared to involve danger in the trying out of divorce proceedings in the criminal trial.

CLARENCE B. LESTER.

**Child Labor.** At no time in the history of the country has the interest in the subject of child labor been greater than at the present. The labor union and statesman, as well as the philanthropist agree that reforms are needed.

Since January, 1907, sixteen States have passed laws in the interest of children, to protect them from excessive toil and to give them the rudiments of education. Few States have ideal laws, but in some the condition of the child is deplorable, and these States are taking steps to ameliorate the condition of the children. Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont and Wyoming have passed laws in the interest of children this year.

In this legislation, the age limit varies from twelve in Florida, where the law provides for an age limit of twelve years for employment in any

factory, work shop, bowling alley, bar-room, or in or about any mine or quarry, to eighteen in Massachusetts, where children under that age may not be employed in textile mills between 6 p. m. and 6 a. m.

Many of the States have included in the new laws a provision requiring some definite proof of the age of the child, thus preventing parents from making false statements. Idaho (Laws 1907, p. 248) requires an age certificate issued by a notary, certifying that the child can read and write English and has received instruction in spelling, English grammar and geography and is familiar with fundamental operations of arithmetic, or has similar attainments in another language. Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, and New Jersey require very definite proof of age, such as a certified copy of record of birth, baptismal record or passport. North Carolina, the State in which the condition of children laboring in the mills has been far from satisfactory, has been conservative in legislation. After January 1, 1908, children under thirteen, except as apprentices, are forbidden to be employed. The proof of age is simply the written statement of the parents. The hours of labor are not more than sixty-six in one week for all persons under eighteen, and after January 1, 1908, work is forbidden between 8 p.m. and 5 a. m. for all children under fourteen in the factories.

Certain States, such as Illinois, Michigan, Nebraska, Vermont and Wyoming have passed laws providing compulsory education. In Illinois (Laws 1907, p. 520) all children under sixteen, unless employed, are required to attend school. In Michigan all children between seven and sixteen, except children who have completed the eighth grade or children over fourteen who need to support their parents, are required to be in school during the entire school year. In the country districts of Nebraska (c. 66) children between seven and fifteen are required to attend school for two-thirds of the entire school session, and in no case less than twelve weeks. In the cities, the Nebraska law requires all children between seven and fifteen to attend school for the entire session, except those over fourteen employed for their support, or for the support of others dependent on them.

In the legislation of this year there is a decided tendency toward checking night work. Idaho, Minnesota, Missouri, Florida, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and Vermont have enacted laws to check or abolish this evil.

E. WATSON KENYON.